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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Erika C. Dabney

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10/20/2006

Patent Documentation Center

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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/944,581	Applicant(s) DABNEY ET AL.	
	Examiner Yixing Qin	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to applicant's amendment received 6/1/06, all requested changes have been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/1/06 have been fully considered. Regarding claims 1, the Examiner disagrees that the Shima reference does not show the transferring of control from an application to a print driver. As mentioned previously, the Applicant's specification states in page 5, lines 3-5 that control is transferred from the application to the print driver. Shima essentially discloses the same steps in column 7, lines 7-12 where print settings are sent to a print driver. However, the claimed invention in claims 9, 16 and 19 are allowable. Please see further detail below.

Claim 4 is not allowable at this point. The claim does not need to be amended but the Attorney has to go on record indicating that the interpretation of the claim is that of the applicant's specification on page 6, lines 22-page 7, line 8 – especially page 7, lines 2-8. Without this indication, the wording of the claim simply gives a name "problem printing multiple copies" to a selectable feature on a print driver UI. Since this feature has no commonly understood meaning (such as stapling, collate, etc.), it currently is interpreted as just being another button or checkbox. However, as said above, if it stated that the interpretation of this "problem printing multiple copies" is that its function is that on page 7, lines 2-8 of the application's specification, then it would be allowable.

Regarding claims 5, and 10, new art has been found to teach/suggest these features.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16-21 allowed. Claim 9 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose a print driver UI that reports to a software application that one copy of a job will be printed, while still printing multiple copies of the job, in combination with the other aspects of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claims 1,3, 4, 6-8, 10-12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Word in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,676,309)

Regarding claim 1, the Word reference discloses a print driver user interface method for printing a document, comprising at said print driver:

receiving a number corresponding to a plural number of copies of the document to be printed from a software application; (Fig. A that 5 copies of a document are to be printed. Fig. C shows the 5 copies have been received. The Examiner interprets Fig. B as the print driver UI and one can see it is accessed by hitting the properties button in Fig. A. Figs. C, D and E are various screens showing how a user can choose copies in the advanced options of the Layout tab as shown in Fig. B. Figs. C, D and E are therefore part of the print driver UI, Fig. B.)

receiving at least one command relating to an operation to be performed on each of the plural number of copies of the document to be printed; (One can see in Figs. C, D and E various commands under the Document Options and Printer Features headings.)

displaying a first feature to a user in response to receiving a plural number of copies of the document to be printed; (Please note the difference between Figs. D and E. Notice that when the number of copies is set to 1, the collated checkbox in Fig. E is disabled and that when the number of copies is 5 (i.e. more than 1), the collated checkbox in Fig. D is enabled. This shows that the print driver UI of Word can perform

a function in response to receiving a plural number of copies of a document to be printed. This can read upon displaying a first feature.)

The Word reference does not explicitly disclose “offering the user a choice to select to transfer control of printing the copies from the software application to the print the print driver; and transferring control of printing the number of copies from the software application to the print driver.”

However, the applicant’s specification notes in Fig. 3 and on page 5, lines 3-5 that when the user clicks ok on a print dialog box, the control is transferred to the print driver from the application. The secondary reference, Shima, teaches this idea in column 7, lines 7-12. Note also in column 6, lines 35-42 for various printing settings that are sent when the ok button is selected. This indicates that

The Word reference and Shima are combinable because both are in the art of controlling print jobs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Word and Shima, so the control of the printing to can be transferred to the print driver.

The motivation would be to ensure proper printing, as this is a necessary step in obtaining a printed document.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine The Word reference and Shima to obtain the invention as specified.

Regarding claim 2, the Word reference discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising offering the user the option to reselect a number of copies of the document to be printed. (Fig. E of Word there is a box for the selection of copies to be printed. The user can reselect the number of copies as many time as he/she wishes.)

Regarding claim 4, the Word reference discloses The method of claim 1 wherein said permitting the user to select to transfer control includes permitting the user to select that there is a problem printing multiple copies. (as discussed in the arguments above, the “problem printing multiple copies” has no concrete meaning at this point and is interpreted to be simply another checkbox or button. The Word reference shows various checkboxes and buttons.)

Regarding claims 6 and 11, the Word reference discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising offering the user to select the operation to be performed. (options in Figs. B-E of Word can be selected by a user.)

Regarding claims 7 and 12, the Word reference discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the operation to be performed was received from the software application. Fig. F of Word that under zoom options, a pages per sheet and scale to letter size can be picked using the software application and gets reflected in the print driver UI in the Effects Tab.)

Regarding claim 8, the Word and Shima references disclose various features in their print UI.

It does not explicitly disclose “further comprising displaying a second feature to the user that explains the purpose and function of transferring control of printing the copies from the software application to the print driver.”

However, the displaying of dialog/message boxes to help users or for explanation is well known (i.e. see Miller – U.S. Patent No. 5,442,687 and Palmer et al – U.S. Patent No. 5,825,355). One can see the help button on the interface of Word (i.e. the question mark on the top right hand of the window). One skilled in the art would also know that many programs include a help menu for the explanation of how to perform various tasks. The Examiner asserts that the displaying of an explanation of a task performed is an obvious engineering design choice (i.e. similar to if one wanted to have a message box popping up displaying what the number of copies box is for or what the print quality box is for in a print dialog).

Therefore, it would be obvious for one of ordinary skill to have combined these teachings to create an invention that includes a feature that explains a particular function.

The motivation would be to enable a user to know important information about a particular function in the print driver UI.

Regarding claim 10, the Word reference discloses a print driver UI method for printing copies of a document, comprising at the print driver:

receiving a plural number corresponding to the number of copies to be printed from a software application; (Fig. A that 5 copies of a document are to be printed. Fig.

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C shows the 5 copies have been received. The Examiner interprets Fig. B as the print driver UI and one can see it is accessed by hitting the properties button in Fig. A. Figs. C, D and E are various screens showing how a user can choose copies in the advanced options of the Layout tab as shown in Fig. B. Figs. C, D and E are therefore part of the print driver UI, Fig. B)

receiving at least one command relating to an operation to be performed on each of the plural number of copies to be printed; (Figs. C, D and E various commands under the Document Options and Printer Features headings.) and displaying a feature to a user Informing the user that the software application may have a problem printing multiple copies. (This limitation have been addressed in claim 5 above)

Regarding claim 15, the Word and Shima references discloses dialog boxes.

It does not explicitly disclose "the method of claim 10 wherein the feature also instructs the user on how to access the print driver UI."

However, none of the references explicitly teach the instructing of an user how to access the print driver UI. However, one of ordinary skill knows that using a help menu as discussed above is a conventional way in which an user can obtain information regarding how to perform various tasks. It would be an obvious design choice to simply combine pop up help boxes relating to performing a task when a user is choosing options for that task with the particular print driver UI features as disclosed by Word, Shima.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a message for helping a user accomplish a task.

The motivation would be to enable an user to receive pertinent information regarding printing using a print driver UI.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine The Word reference and Shima to obtain the invention as specified.

II. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Word in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,676,309) and further in view of Fein et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,608).

Regarding claim 5, the Word reference discloses a print driver UI.

It does not explicitly disclose "the method of claim 1 wherein the first feature informs the user that the software application may have a problem printing multiple copies."

However, the secondary reference, Fein discloses in Figs. 2 and 3 common printer error messages. In Fig. 4, Fein shows that there are custom messages that one can created based on situational conditions. One of ordinary skill knows that printing plural copies is common in the art of printing and would be obvious to have implemented a custom message in case there is an error printing multiple copies.

The Word reference and Fein are combinable because both are in the art of print dialogs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included a custom message in the Word reference.

The motivation would have been to alert users to potential errors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine The Word reference and Fein to obtain the invention as specified.

III. Claims 13 and 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Word in view of Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6,676,309) and further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, The Word and Shima reference discloses print driver UIs.

It does not explicitly disclose duplexing or stapling functions.

However, the Examiner takes Official Notice since duplexing and stapling are common in the printing art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included stapling and duplexing functions.

The motivation would have been to enable a user to customized the outputted paper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

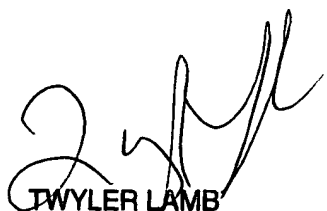
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YQ 


TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER